



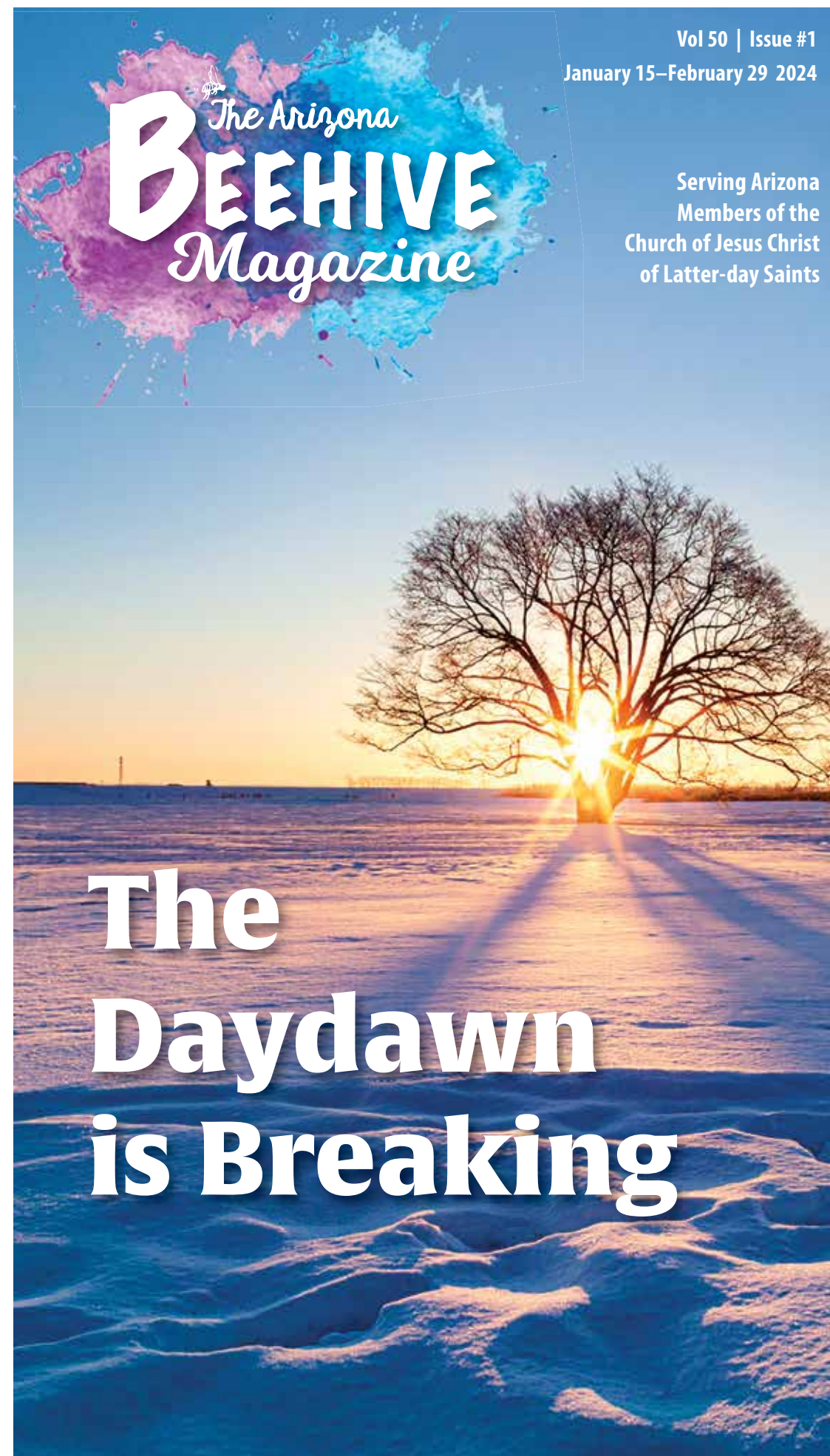

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ON THE COVER

*The world is awaking!
Happy 2024...*

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All photos by Robin Finlinson



Missionaries helping at the event had fun for the camera, showing off the gymnastics skill of one of them!

The Spirit of Christ Lights the East Valley Giving Machines and Christmas Lights Adorn Gilbert and Mesa

By Robin Finlinson

The grand opening of the **2023 East Valley Giving Machines** on November 17th gathered guests of multiple church affiliations, elected officials and other dignitaries to welcome the machines back to town.

As usual, it was a remarkably peaceful occasion. Steve Lowder who, with his wife Fran, oversees all the Light the World Giving Machines in Arizona, described it this way: "The spirit of Christ-like giving brings people together, including government officials of different sides of the political aisle. We walked together, conversed together, cut the ribbon together, and found common ground."

Guests that morning were often struck with emotion as Brother Lowder and others personally showed them how easy it is—thanks to those special vending machines—for donors to help get items to

people in need of them. Miss Arizona beamed delightedly. The eyes of the Director of Communications at the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family sparkled with tears.

Nonprofit representatives speaking at the event opened the audience's eyes to the extraordinary efforts being taken to provide relief to people locally and across the Atlantic Ocean—from assisting a child with disabilities using equine-assisted therapy in San Tan Valley, to supporting whole communities in Africa as they learn to become and remain self-reliant.

Joel and Stephanie Biggs were in charge of the grand opening for the East Valley and supported the machines from launch to finish. "Thousands of people came together to make this vision a reality," said Brother Biggs. "We should acknowledge not only those who made monetary donations, but also those who gave of their time to be hosts at the Giving Machines. That included

volunteers from the various charity organizations represented in them, members of several stakes of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and other members of the East Valley faith community."

Gilbert residents are now used to seeing at least one machine near the Water Tower on the south side of Page Avenue at Christmastime. Also having one directly across the street, next to the Hale Centre Theatre, was novel in 2023. Brother Biggs commends theater owners Dave and Corrin Dietlein for hosting a machine on their beautiful property. Its placement mere steps away from theatergoers and numerous passersby significantly boosted success. "It's a record-setting year for giving from the generous people of the East Valley," he reported. "The light shone brighter than ever."

Continued on pg. 5

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

When contemplating a cover headline and image for each issue of this magazine, often a hymn title will pop into my head. Song titles often speak a thousand words. After all, the "What's The Buzz" column is named after a song title. This go around, *The Day Dawn is Breaking* stuck in my head. I envisioned a cover image of a sunrise, symbolic of the new year, and the hope the occasion brings to us all. Subsequently, I looked at the lyrics of the song, rather than merely the song title.

Interestingly, author Joseph L. Townsend, while writing about his day, was also describing our day, pondering the earth waking up from "worldwide commotion from ocean to ocean" and finding itself on the first day of the millennium. Happy New Year, indeed!

A quick study of our hymnal reveals Brother Townsend as one of its more prolific authors, counting among his creations: #185 "Reverently and Meekly Now," #232 "Let Us Oft Speak Kind Words To Each Other," #239 "Choose the Right," #258 "O Thou Rock Of Our Salvation," #259 "Hope of Israel," and #274 "The Iron Rod". Staples sung during our Sacrament meetings!

As I am sure you know, each hymn references a scripture or two as the basis of its significance. *The Day Dawn is Breaking* notes Doctrine and Covenants 29:11: *For I will reveal myself from heaven with power and great glory, with all the hosts thereof, and dwell in righteousness with men on earth a thousand years, and the wicked shall not stand.*

And Doctrine and Covenants 45:59: *For the Lord shall be in their midst, and his glory shall be upon them, and he will be their king and their lawgiver.*

Both scriptures, as expected given the flavor of the song's lyrics, anticipate the Millennium.

So, was I inspired to title this issue "The Day Dawn Is Breaking" because its pages usher in the Millennium? I think not! But it does highlight that our new 366-day year started with a single bright, hopeful day. Sunrises are symbolic of hope, and of everything having a beginning. I consider the content of our magazine as hopeful. We write about what is good in our community, providing stories and information that give hope and feelings of joy at living, as members of our magnificent church, in our Phoenix-area confines.

Here's to each day dawn breaking with hope and enjoyment this coming year. Thanks for reading... You are most appreciated...



Michael O'Brien
Publisher



The Arizona Beehive, LLC
1225 West Main Street, Suite 101-439
Mesa, Arizona 85201
480.304.5646
ArizonaBeehiveMagazine.com

PUBLISHER

Michael O'Brien
BeehiveAdvSales@gmail.com

EDITOR

Michael O'Brien
BeehiveAdvSales@gmail.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Leslie Thompson - Layout
Candace Khattab - Ad Design

PHOTOGRAPHY

Robin Finlinson

SOCIAL MEDIA

Grace O'Brien

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Allison Beckert
Emily Jex Boyle
Robin Finlinson
Lin Sue Flood
Myra Larsen
Rauna Mortensen
Katherine Ogden
Glen & Lynne Tolman
Barbie VanCott
Cindy R. Williams

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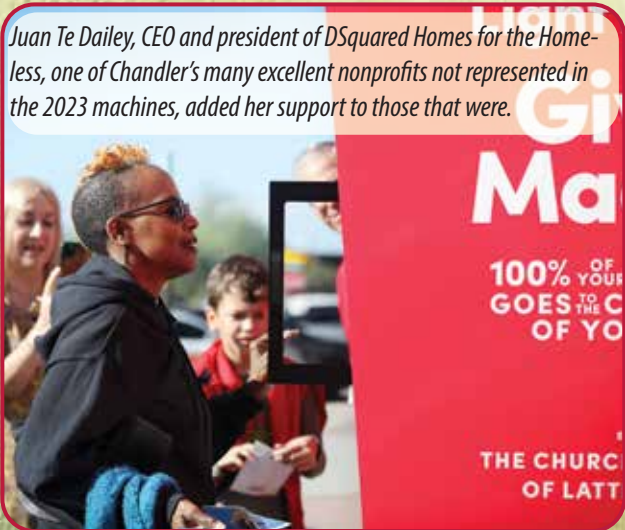
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Four government officials wielded giant scissors for the ribbon cutting. Left to right: Mayor of Gilbert Brigitte Peterson; U.S. Congressman Andy Biggs; Jack Sellers, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Chairman; and Tonya Hamilton, Cabinet Executive Officer of the Arizona Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family.



Jennifer Bertoldo (board president) and Katie Kahle (director) of Chandler Care Center take a selfie, pointing to the Giving Machine items that patrons could purchase to support the center's clients.



Juan Te Dailey, CEO and president of DSquared Homes for the Homeless, one of Chandler's many excellent nonprofits not represented in the 2023 machines, added her support to those that were.



Arizona Giving Machines co-director Steve Lowder showed Miss Arizona 2023, Tiffany Ticlo, how fun and easy it is to help get items to those who need them by using the machines.

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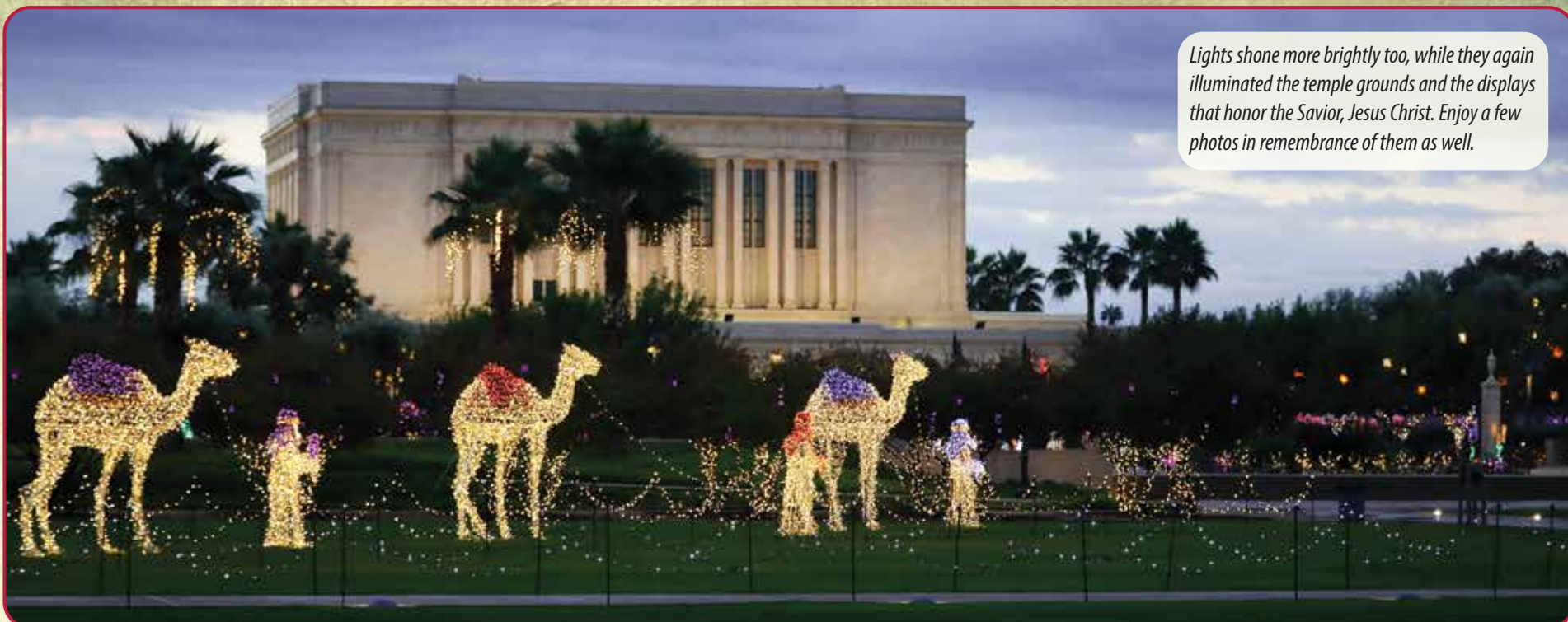


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Lights shone more brightly too, while they again illuminated the temple grounds and the displays that honor the Savior, Jesus Christ. Enjoy a few photos in remembrance of them as well.



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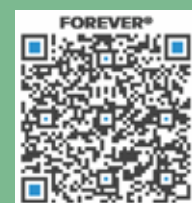


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ANNOUNCING DREAMS

Revisiting *Remembering Heaven*

By Katherine Ogden

Local author Sarah Hinze has written many books over the past twenty-five years, each filled with personal stories that testify of how we come from God before we

are born. In some cultures, these experiences are called “announcing dreams” (meaning dreams and visions with yet to be conceived or unborn children). Sarah also refers to them as pre-birth experiences.

“We are all familiar with the most well-known ‘announcing dream’, the story of the Angel Gabriel who visited Mary, the mother of Jesus,” says Sarah. “Gabriel announced to her that she would have a son. He even announced the baby’s name would be Jesus.” Years later, after all the books and stories of heaven that had been shared, she and her husband Brent

decided it was time for a film to be made about these miraculous stories.

Remembering Heaven is a documentary of those pre-birth experiences. It brings forth in film the resounding modern evidence of a pre-existence, as well as evidence of pre-existence taught down through the ages in art, poetry, literature, and cultural traditions.

The film has won many awards:

- Best Documentary and People’s Choice Award at the 2021 LDS Film Festival
- Best Documentary award at the 2021 Utah Film Festival
- Accepted & nominated at the 2021 International Christian Film and Music Festival
- Utah’s Best of State award in April 2021
- Best Documentary at the “Best of Utah” organization
- Praiseworthy Award at BYU for



Best Feature Documentary 2021, Latter Day Saints in Publishing, Media and the Arts (LDSPMA)

As a convert, Sarah was baptized by a missionary couple who had only one baptism while on their mission. That one convert, though, has grown into being able to touch thousands and thousands of people’s hearts. “My dear missionaries Steve and Helen Bunnell served eighteen months in East Tennessee and I was their only baptism,” says Sarah. “I’m

Continued on pg. 20



Photo courtesy of Sarah Hinze

Sarah Hinze receiving LDSPMA Praiseworthy Award at BYU, October 2021, presented by Ashlee Stratton.

Resolute!

Goal Setting for Eternal Dividends

Rauna Mortensen

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we believe in goal setting! Terms like “New Years Resolutions” may sometimes bring thoughts and memories of discouragement and failure, but nevertheless, we believe in always striving for progress and improvement, remembering that the direction we are headed in our spiritual trajectory is more important than our current position on the covenant path.

In the context of eternity, President Russell M. Nelson says this life is “hardly a nanosecond . . . but . . . what a crucial nanosecond it is! Every righteous choice that you make here will pay huge dividends now. But righteous choices in mortality will

pay unimaginable dividends eternally” (“Choices for Eternity” Devotional).

Discouragement is one of Satan’s most effective weapons. The apostle Peter came down out of the ship and did walk on the water. But then he saw the boisterous wind and was afraid, and he began to sink, until Jesus stretched forth his hand and caught him. We observe that at first, Peter was thriving - he was safe, he was progressing - when his focus was on the Savior. However, when he diverted his eyes to the waves, he changed his focus to the other things prevailing around him: the world and its dangers, the unknown, the loudest voices. He was then overcome and lost all sense of purpose except to survive.

What a beautiful lesson for us to

remember that we thrive and progress as we keep our focus on the Savior. When we stay riveted on Him and His example, His great love and atoning sacrifice for us, we obtain our righteous goals, we conquer our fears and temptations, our setbacks and obstacles.

Some quick reminders for goal setting:

- Visualize each goal, and write them down
- Keep each goal specific and measurable
- Success is more likely if we change a little at a time instead of a lot all at once
- Share our goals and have accountability partners
- Schedule consistent times to review and recommit

Ask your children to verbalize goals every week to you, then post them in a visible place. Perhaps post two



Courtesy of Freebibleimages.org

Peter walking on water to Jesus.

goals for a 5-year-old, three goals for a 10-year-old, and four goals for a 15-year-old in areas such as academic, social, physical, and spiritual. Each week, review their goals with them, then help them adjust and set new ones. Always praise their effort and desires, perhaps more than the actual results.

Recall the woman in California

Continued on pg. 23



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PREP YOUR MISSIONARY

The Missionary Training Center

By Allison Beckert

Returned missionaries often have stories about their experiences at the Missionary Training Center (MTC). The purpose of the MTC is to train new missionaries in the skills of teaching the gospel. On a more informal note, it's also a place where new missionaries likely spend their first extended period away from home, experiencing their first measure of independence. Both purposes are exciting and new!

At a training center, new missionaries can expect their days to be highly scheduled. Each missionary and their companion are provided a plan for daily meals, exercise times, and classes with their on-site district groups. Their weeks also include a preparation day, just as each week will in the field. "P-day" is a day to fulfill cleaning duties, do laundry, and take time for the allowed communication with family. Sunday services are also on site.

While daily classes are in a regular classroom, missionaries also

participate in workshops on culture, common principles, teaching practice, and many fireside-style lessons by members who have conversion stories to share and unique experiences that expand the perspective of missionary work and what it can do.

When packing, missionaries do not have a different set of luggage for the MTC vs the mission field. So, the packing focus is on the needs of their particular mission, with MTC concerns secondary. However, at the advice of some current missionaries, here are some preparations essentials for both



Photo by Steven Weirather from Pixabay
For many missionaries, you may begin your training remotely.

the MTC and the field:

Pack shower shoes or flipflops for daily use. Pack a shower bag or hygiene kit bag that holds all toiletries. This will go a long way toward making the communal showers and bathroom arrangements less difficult.

The most effective thing a pre-missionary can do to prepare for training experience is to attend all regular church meetings, volunteer or accept callings, take advantage of any ward and stake missionary prep classes, and begin regular scripture study using the Preach My Gospel manual. Connecting with the community, especially those who are not members of the church, will be all the greater to the preparation the MTC will give for connecting to people with compassion and Christlike love.

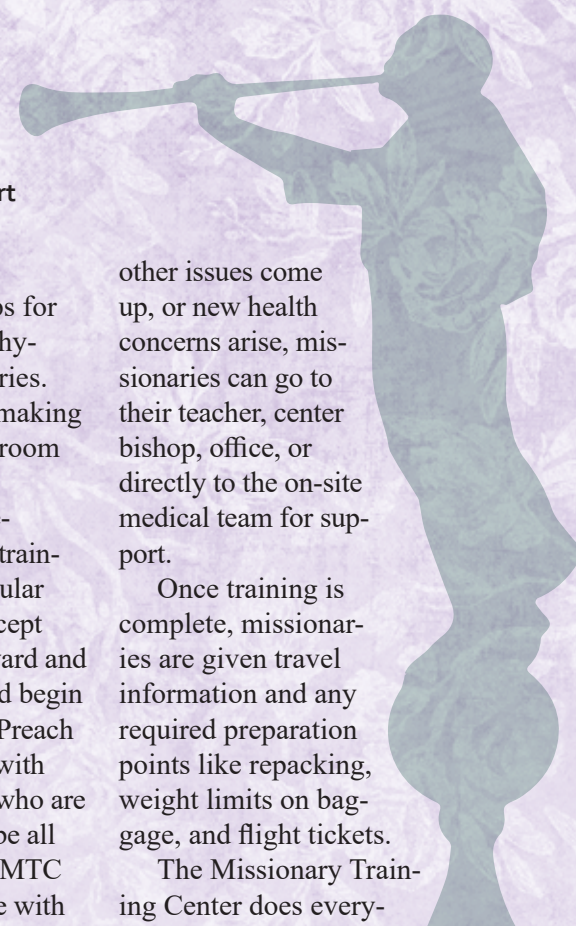
The mission application process typically covers all the individual health issues or special requirements like diet restrictions, medical conditions, or other concerns. These are accommodated at the MTC with regular medical checks and allergen-friendly meals. Should

other issues come up, or new health concerns arise, missionaries can go to their teacher, center bishop, office, or directly to the on-site medical team for support.

Once training is complete, missionaries are given travel information and any required preparation points like repacking, weight limits on baggage, and flight tickets.

The Missionary Training Center does everything possible to set up each missionary for success. Hard work, making use of MTC resources, and looking forward to joining others in the field will create the best training experience for all missionaries.

Sisters Merita Afualo and Hannah Scott contributed to this article.



THE GREEN STUFF

Helping Children Achieve Financial Success

By Barbie VanCott

As parents, teaching our children how to manage the money they earn and helping them establish a sound financial foundation for their future is critical. After raising six kids, my husband and I taught our children how to gain self-reliance. It starts in the home.

First, assign your children chores and then praise them when they accomplish each one. This will help them be better prepared when they apply for a job and become employed.

Marvin J. Ashton of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said, *"One of the greatest favors parents can do for their children is to teach them to work. Much has been said over the years about children and monthly allowances, and opinions and recommendations vary greatly. I'm from the 'old school.' I believe that children should earn their money needs through service and appropriate chores. I think it is unfortunate for a child to grow up in a home where the seed is planted in the child's mind that there is a family money tree that automatically drops 'green stuff' once a week or once a month."*

Next, teach your children the principle of tithing. It is part of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Share with

them how it has blessed your life. Then explain the purpose of tithing, found in Malachi:

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

"And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.

"And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of Hosts." (Mal 3:10-12)

Then, teach your children how to save by spend-

ing less than they earn. After paying tithing, our children put forty percent of their earnings in savings. It helped them focus on what they really needed to spend money on. When the time came for them serve missions or go to college, they helped pay for each endeavor. This gave them a great sense of responsibility.

President Hinckley declared: *"Many of our people are living on the very edge of their incomes. In fact, some are living on borrowings. I urge you to be modest in your expenditures; discipline yourselves in your purchases to avoid debt to the extent possible."*

Last, be an example. Show your children how live within your means.

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles declared: *"Teach your children to follow your example. Too many of our youth get into financial difficulty because they never learned proper principles of financial common sense at home. Teach your children while they are young. Teach them that they cannot have something merely because they want it. Teach them the principles of hard work, frugality, and saving."*



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Buying | Investing | Owning | Living

By Emily Jex Boyle

Innovative Partners Offer Enlightening Global Housing Options

ZenniHome offers a fresh solution to the housing shortage in which homes are often unaffordable or unavailable. Labor shortages and a rising cost of construction materials are just some of the reasons why traditional construction methods are contributing to, and don't appear to be effectively responding to the shortage. ZenniHome is seeking innovative ways to address housing. Some are calling the company "the Tesla of homes." Their objectives are to offer homes costing 30% less than stick homes, built 50% faster, ready to ship anywhere.

Bob Worsley, former Arizona State Senator and founder of SkyMall, partnered with Stephen D. James, designer of eco-friendly, master planned communities like Daybreak in Utah, to co-found ZenniHome in 2019. The company, according

is a way to very comfortably live off the grid and we're not preppers."

Simply put, ZenniHome boldly offers new options to various housing needs, presenting a realistic and eco-wise way for young people to find their way into the current, intimidating housing market. ZenniHome can also serve a family looking to invest in the care of their aging loved one at home while still granting them their own living space on their property. Another option may be for a couple with grown children to use as a second-home nearby.

When looking for a location for a factory, Worsley chose Page. The city's coal plant closed a few years ago causing one thousand people, including skilled craftsmen such as pipefitters, electricians and carpenters, to lose their jobs. "We're bringing them back to work, with more positions to open as the factory expands," Worsley says.



Photo courtesy of ZenniHome

With two patented design units, the Denizen and Citizen, ZenniHome is offering tours to the public through model homes in Downtown Mesa as well as through the factory in Page.



Photo courtesy of ZenniHome
Bob Worsley, former Arizona State Senator and founder of SkyMall.

"Page is extremely gifted as it relates to working around steel, welding, plumbing, and electrical." When asked about potential factory growth, Worsley says, "We're only using about 35 acres and there are one thousand acres."

ZenniHome is being called revolutionary and has Robert Vera, director of Grand Canyon University's Innovation Center, calling Worsley "the Henry Ford" of the modern manufactured living structure. For more information, visit zennihome.com.

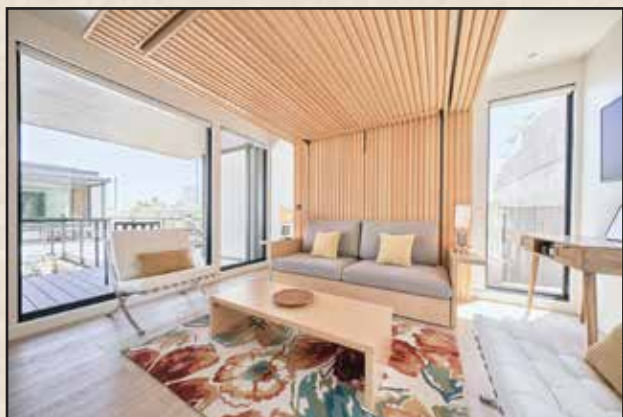


Photo courtesy of ZenniHome

Inside one of the ZenniHome models in Mesa, Arizona.

to its website, "brings viable solutions, by designing and factory building its models to be easily transported, to have a minimum environmental footprint, to stack in multi-family configurations, and to include leading edge technologies that transform the customer experience of buying, investing, owning, and living." Worsley explains, "ZenniHomes have been designed to withstand a hurricane in Miami, an earthquake in Los Angeles and a snowstorm in Park City."

With two patented design units, the Denizen and Citizen, ZenniHome is offering tours to the public through model homes in Downtown Mesa as well as through the factory in Page, Arizona. Built with steel not wood, the homes intentionally allow for more living in less space, including a bed which rises to the ceiling to convert a bedroom into a living room and also an entertainment center which moves to reveal a walk-in closet. Other features include environmentally prioritized features which include: installed solar system for energy production, lithium-ion backup batteries for storage, gray and black water recycling for water management as well as a feature which extracts potable water from the atmosphere. Explaining his feelings about its smart design, Worsley says, "Christi and I have lived off the grid at our ranch since 1996. There

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Waiting Upon the Lord

The Psalmist writes, “but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth.” (Psalms 37:9) Isaiah writes, “They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles: they shall run and not be weary.” (Isaiah 40:31) As we welcome in the first months of 2024, let’s explore the everyday verb *to wait*, found in scriptures like those mentioned here. I believe there is more to this verb than what first meets the eye.

How does the verb *to wait*

show up for you in these verses? What type of counsel and action items do you gather from them? For me, there are generally certain types of images that pop up when I think about the word wait. I imagine excitedly waiting for a loved one to arrive at the airport or waiting for a book, song or a movie to be released. Someone might be waiting to do something they’d like to do or to go somewhere but the time hasn’t arrived, such as waiting in line for a ride at an amusement park or sitting at an airport waiting to board a plane. These everyday examples of waiting when taken to a scriptural level may bring up images of stillness, trust and patience.

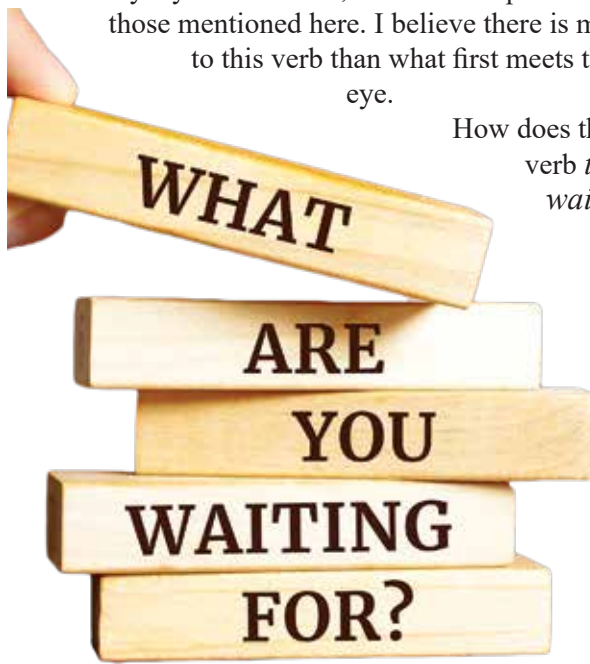
Let’s imagine more from this verb in scripture. While there is value in the qualities of stillness mentioned above, Lynne Hilton Wilson, co-founder of Scripture Central gives this following example to help with just such an invite: When you go to a sit-down restaurant, there is a waitperson there to take care of you during your meal. They greet you soon after your arrival, give you options for your meal, take your requests and do their best to deliver on your request. If you, as a customer, are not satisfied with the meal, often this person will apologize and take the food away and bring back another offering for you. As customers, we appreciate a waitperson, also called a server, who is ready to take care of us during our

time at the restaurant.

Thinking about the way the word is used in this example can really add depth to the many ways we might “*wait upon the Lord.*”

Observing comparable verbs from various languages adds perspective and value. In French, one word used in place of this verb is *attendre*. In Italian, one word used in place of this verb is *aspettare*. In both of these verbs, we can find some other verbs with ties to these. For example, *to attend* is a verb that can relate to the French verb as an action described as going and even participating. I also like how *attend* also relates to the French word *maintenant*. The Italian verb *aspettare* is tied to the word in English *to expect*. Both of these verbs include a sense of action.

We can find comfort in the promise that as we wait upon the Lord, we will be carried on wings as eagles. We can trust in the enabling promise of the Atonement of Jesus Christ that we will not be left comfortless, but that our Savior will come to us. (John 14:18) What an opportunity to engage in the work of the Lord—even loving our neighbors by waiting on the Lord through faithful steps of discipleship, loving, serving, ministering, forgiving, comforting and more.



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What's Cooking?

By The Arizona Beehive Magazine

WINTER WARMTH SLOW COOKED CROCK POT DISHES

Seems many of us have crock pot slow cookers tucked away in cupboards, getting little use. Winter's busy schedules are reason enough to get yours out, dust it off and fill it up. After a busy day, you'll come home to a hot and mouth-watering meal and a home filled with amazing aromas. These recipes range from basic to a bit fancy, but both are made from items you are likely to have on hand in the pantry or freezer.

Sloppy Joes are a great foolproof meal that is a favorite of little and big kids alike. Everyone can assemble their own sandwiches, and along with a tossed salad, the fun and yummy meal is complete.

Pork chops are an ideal meal when entertaining friends, or for your family's Sunday night dinner. Just fill your pot in the morning and go about your day. The apricots go very well with the always fabulously tender and full of flavor chops.



Slow Cooker Apricot & Apple Pork Chops

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 English cucumbers, about 8 inches long, thinly sliced
- 1/4 red onion, thinly sliced
- 5 or 6 red radishes, thinly sliced
- 15 - 20 mint leaves, thinly sliced
- 4 - 5 T white vinegar
- 1/4 c olive oil
- 1/4 lb feta cheese, crumbled
- Salt and freshly ground pepper

INSTRUCTIONS:

Combine all ingredients in the slow cooker. Cover and cook on LOW for 7 - 9 hours, or 3 1/2 - 4 1/2 hours on HIGH. About 20 to 30 minutes before serving, pour liquid into a separate container and skim off excess fat. Stir in the cornstarch mixture and return the broth to slow cooker. Continue cooking on low until the sauce is smooth and thickened. (If doubling the liquid, double the cornstarch mixture as well.) Serves 4 - 6



Slow Cooker Sloppy Joes

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 lbs. 95% lean ground beef
- 1 c chopped onion
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 1/4 c ketchup
- 1 c chopped red bell pepper
- 1/4 c plus 1 T Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 c packed dark brown sugar
- 3 T prepared mustard
- 3 T vinegar
- 2 t chili powder
- Toasted hamburger buns

INSTRUCTIONS:

Cook and stir the ground beef, onion and garlic in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat until the beef is browned and onion is tender. Drain and discard the fat. Combine the ketchup, bell pepper, Worcestershire sauce, sugar, mustard, vinegar and chili powder in a 4 1/2 - quart slow cooker. Stir in the beef mixture. Cover; cook on LOW 6 to 8 hours. To serve, spoon the meat mixture onto the toasted hamburger buns. Serves 6 - 8



Cultural Hall podcast host and founder Richard Steadman.

What Goes On In The Cultural Hall, Stays In The Cultural Hall

LDS-Focused Podcast *The Cultural Hall*

By Allison Beckert

What goes on in the cultural hall in one of our churches? Usually it's a place for events, activities, and connection. At any point in the week, it could be seating for services, a basketball or volleyball court, seating for a production, youth group meeting place, reception area, and a million other things. It's a place where the culture of the church is on display, and where discussion, connection, and social networks are built. Let's be honest too, the back rows of the cultural hall are where things get very real and honest with how life, the world, and faith intersect. In this tradition (one that goes back to our first meetinghouses), The Cultural Hall podcast is perfectly named.

Host and founder Richard Steadman has fantastic charisma, an open mind, and an approach perfectly suited for his subject matter. With his background in podcasting and entertainment, Steadman is a consummate host. Talk shows like this one can turn into a game of caution and delicacy very easily, but that isn't the approach here. Instead, he clearly works hard to keep the communication lines open, letting his guests and himself voice opinions in a safe space even when the opinions aren't ones that are regularly seen in Church circles. It's a refreshing honesty, one allowing for independent thought partnered with faith.

The Cultural Hall episodes dive right into current events, connections to church history, voices that lend diversity to the membership of the Church, and guests who can provide insight into what

Continued on pg. 17



By Robin Finlinson

Come Follow Me

This new song supports the readings in the manual titled *Come, Follow Me—For Home and Church*, comprising the entire Book of Mormon in 2024. The song particularly references Third Nephi chapters 9-30, and the Biblical verse John 10:16. It may be copied for easier use.

A Book That Tells of Jesus

A Book That Tells of Jesus

Words and Music by Robin Finlinson

$\text{♩} = 84-92$

mp

1. Did you know the Book of Mor-mon tells of
2. Did you know that Je - sus said He'd vis - it

Je - sus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords?
oth - er sheep? A dis - tant fold would hear His voice.

As I read it I am ed - i - fied by all the prophets' words. They teach of
They soon heard and saw our ri - sen Sav - ior and did all re - joice. Some pag - es

Him who loves and longs to save ev - ery - one. He is the
of the Book of Mor - mon tell what they heard: God's sa - cred,

1. Cho - sen One, He is God's Holy Son.
might - y word; His Marv' - lous

2. Ho - ly Word.

3. Did you know the book was hid den un - der - neath the ground for

cen - tu - ries, kept for our time? If you read it too you can dis - cov - er man - y

truths sub - lime. You'll know of peo - ple whose bright faith in Christ

would not dim. They knew He'll come a - gain. And o - ver e - vil win.

mf *mp*

Words/music: Robin Finlinson

John 10:16; 3 Nephi 9:30

What Goes on in the Cultural Hall Continued from pg. 16

would otherwise be difficult topics, especially for members. If the Church has made the news, local, national, or global, for good or for ill it will be at least mentioned and maybe covered in depth by the hosts or guests of the Cultural Hall. What would normally be treated as a scandal, Steadman and the team address with frank facts. Where some would immediately dismiss accusations or dismissals, the discussion shared in these episodes is direct and unflinching.

The Cultural Hall releases at least one episode

a week – and often more if there is breaking news or an event that prompts discussion. The main episodes are typically over an hour and a half, broken up into ‘blocks’ like old school 3 block church meetings. They will provide a warning ahead of time if a topic is particularly triggering, or if the topics are unsuitable for more sensitive listeners or children. Such warnings are helpful especially if you’re not in a headspace to explore a tough topic.

The more as-needed episodes are typically much shorter than the main ones, and some are perfectly lighthearted, and not always full of heavy topics. Just timely interest points, including those that don’t al-

ways show the Church in the best light. The titling and summaries available on most podcast services should ensure that, as a listener, you get what you’re looking for and not what you aren’t.

While this podcast isn’t for everyone, it will appeal best to adult members interested in news, current events, and perspectives outside the mainstream of the Church. It’s colorful, inclusive, investigative, and curious. The Cultural Hall is available on all major podcast streaming services, and you can find more information at their website. <https://theculturalhall.com/>



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Book Lovers Unite!



Mesa Historical Museum's Annual Book Fair

By Myra Larson

Are You a Bookworm? You might want to learn the definition before you answer that question:

1. *a person seriously devoted to reading. The first business located when moving to a new town is the library and the second in the local bookstore.*
2. *larvae of a wood-boring beetle that eats the paper and glue in books.*

This story is all about the first definition. The Mesa Historical Museum will conduct its annual book fair February 3rd and 4th, 2024. Executive Director Susan Ricci shared that “books come from donors all over the valley each week. It requires four senior volunteers the whole year to sort that monstrous inventory, preparing for this annual book fair. They arrive each Wednesday and Thursday and go to work.”

Excitement bubbles in her voice when Ricci exclaims, “We sell about 70% of the inventory.” Which adds up to about 28,000 items sold! Thousands of Phoenix valley book lovers swarm the 2-day event. She praises the “wonderful senior citizen volunteers” who willingly work tirelessly four days getting the items set up and then return to working to put the leftovers to be stored till the next fair.

Proceeds of the fair are utilized to address the museum’s constant repair needs. The property features old school buildings that often require roof repairs and even replacement.

Ricci is proud of the museum’s position on the National Register of Historical Places. The agricultural display outside is a unique feature, and plans are in place for a Play-ball Arizona Baseball Museum scheduled to be launched in January,



Sorting books for the book fair.

Photo courtesy of Mesa Historical Museum

2024. “As you can see, even though the museum is a small gem, it is growing!”

The inaugural Book Fair was held in 2020. In the years following, COVID had little effect on the Book Fair because the event is always held outside and people wore masks. At that time there were

Continued on pg. 23

Local Author Kyle C. Jacobs Releases New Book *Connecting To Courage*

By Cindy R. Williams

Kyle C. Jacobs, author of the new book *Connecting to Courage*, says it was written almost accidentally.

First, Jacobs was inspired to “write an album of piano-rock songs called ‘Speaking From the Dust’ which focuses on *The Book of Mormon* prophets,” says Jacobs.

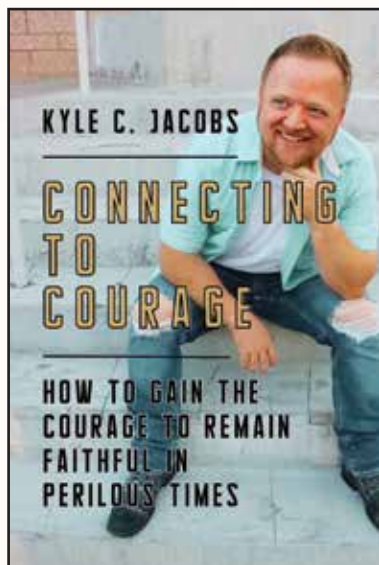
Jacobs says, “After writing the music, however, I felt there was more to be said. Writing the book *Connecting to Courage* was the next step to sharing these important and incredible messages from the Book of Mormon.”

The Jazz-infused rock music in “Speaking From the Dust” is performed by Jacobs on vocals and piano. Two of his brothers, Sam Jacobs on drums and Eric Jacobs on

electric bass, sing backup. There’s also a brass section. Jacobs and his band tour in Arizona.

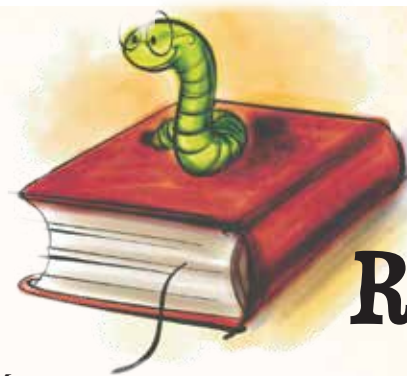
Jacobs says his original Book of Mormon songs help us to avoid the Great and Spacious Building. “The show is like the soundtrack to putting on the armor of God, and definitely causes the audiences to feel the energy to go out into the world, stay true, and be happy doing it.”

“We have to stop just reading text and knowing it with our head. We have to get it into our hearts so it can change us. I hope the book *Connecting to Courage* will help highlight how that can be done. I want the very next book they pick up to be *The Book of Mormon*. Is there a hero that they connect with better who I didn’t write about? Great! I want them to make those connections, and I



Cover by Tiffany Masterson

A New Book And Foot Stomping Rock Music based on Book of Mormon Heroes!



Beehive BOOK REVIEW

hope my book can be just a step toward helping *The Book of Mormon* become the most important book in someone’s life,” says Jacobs.

I feel like the world has packaged the “iron rod” as the no-fun zone, and I am on a personal mission to make sure that everyone knows that’s not the case.”

“I would love to play in people stakes and wards and help share this music and book with as many people as possible. This musical program is available to wards and stakes. I often even do backyard concerts,” says Jacobs.

For a copy of the book or to schedule a show, Contact Jacobs at Kyle@brotherjacobsjam.com



Photo by Atley Jacobs

Author and Musician Kyle C. Jacobs.

Wise Safety Hints

Professional Locksmith Offers Home Security Tips

By Myra Larsen

The turn of the year provides a good time to consider your safety habits and resolve any issues before bad things happen.

Below are three stories of preventable bad things that actually happened:

Sprinkler Flooded House

One step into the family room was met with “squish squish.” A prompt visit from a neighbor explained that all sprinklers had been turned off before leaving on vacation. However, some young neighbor children played with them and left them on.

The gate would be locked before the next trip out of town.

Obscene Phone Call

The whole neighborhood knew the father of the house was in the hospital. About bedtime, the mother received a nasty phone call from a familiar voice, who knew her name.

She reported the call to the police. A patrol car toured the street and the alley, with search lights on.

She created a do-it-yourself alarm by piling tin pie plates beneath each doorknob. Any effort on the outside to turn a knob would create an enormous noise. Then she secured all the windows.

With police assistance and her own efforts, she could sleep, sort of.

Call-blocking/ID has now been installed.

Basement Intrusion

The family was sleeping with mother beside a sick child. She awoke with a knife to her throat and heavy breathing from the head above her. “Don’t move,” the masked man said!

In the master bedroom, something awoke her husband. He had a strong impression that there was danger. He quietly sneaked down the hall and peaked through the bedroom door. He grabbed the man from behind whose arms flew up with the knife in view.



Photo courtesy of Safety.doc

Antique safe used to transport gold shipments in the old days.



Photo courtesy of Safety.doc

Clarence Harmon, founder of Harmon's Safe Lock and Key with his sons who continue to run the business after his passing.

“Get out. Now!” The intruder did what he was told.

A police investigation revealed a cut screen on the basement window. It was easy to enter because the window was open to allow a fresh air flow; although, heavy breathing, knife-wielding intruder was not expected. In a matter of hours, the whole neighborhood was alerted. Unlocked doors and windows were secured. No other homes were apparently bothered.

Brian Harmon of Harmon's Safe Lock and Key hopes no one is taking such chances anymore. He says, “I remember the good old days, but that is only possible in very rural areas, today.”

His biggest concern for residential security is doors. He says “doors are only as secure as the frame. A heavy plate is important.” He also says that newer door installations have hinges mounted on the inside.

In the burgled neighborhood, neighbors replaced one shorter screw from each hinge with a longer screw. Brian suggests installing cameras and alarms. “Security screen doors are less likely to be kicked in. Smart locks have many problems. They cannot be picked by a locksmith if the owner is locked out. Their lifespan is only about one year because the small working pieces wear out quickly. Also, getting new keys isn't a good option. They don't work well, and a single key can't work on all doors using smart locks.”

He reminds folks to put packages out of site in vehicles. Crooks work together in locating parked vehicles with visible items. One searches. One will smash and grab.

So, indeed, it's a good time to consider your safety habits and resolve any issues before bad things happen.

Remembering Heaven Continued from pg. 10

so grateful for the books and the film that we have prepared, that teach the truths of our soul's origin in the world. We help to give a voice to our brothers and sisters who are waiting to be born, and it's also done in honor of the Bunnell's eternal gift to me.”

“Its message expanded my understanding of the soul, increased my love for my newborn daughter, and brought me to tears at numerous points,” shared Jeremy Madsen, with LDSPMA.

“I believe it has incredible potential to spread light, love, and knowledge to a world sorely in need.”

Remembering Heaven has over one million views. The film makers have heard from hundreds of people who have been inspired and edified with the information in *Remembering Heaven*. “As far as I know, it's the first major film on pre-mortal existence to go worldwide,” says Sarah.

Hinze is currently working on a new book, also entitled *Remembering Heaven*. The film can currently be found locally streaming on such sites as Roku (English & Spanish), Amazon Prime and YouTube. Find more information at sarahhinze.com.



Photo courtesy of Sarah Hinze

Becky Hinze Wyler, Sarah Hinze and Laura Hinze Lofgreen, with Best Feature Documentary LDS Film Festival and Audience Choice Awards 2021, for *Remembering Heaven*.

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Work To Be Passionate About

A New Leaf Volunteer Alyssa Turley



Photo courtesy of A New Leaf
A New Leaf volunteer Alyssa Turley.

In the heart of the community, where faith meets service, Alyssa Turley has emerged as a shining example of the positive impact one person can make. As a student at Arizona State University (ASU), pursuing a degree in nonprofit leadership and management, Alyssa's journey into service and volunteerism has been deeply rooted in her faith.

Alyssa's path to making a difference began when she first learned about A New Leaf, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping those facing homelessness in her local community. Her introduction to the organization came through her coursework, and it was a revelation for her. As Alyssa put it, "A New Leaf embodies the kind of

work I'm passionate about."

Her journey led her to join A New Leaf for her capstone internship, an essential component of her degree program. She quickly became an integral part of the organization, working 40 hours a week in the fundraising department. After only four months of interning with A New Leaf, Alyssa had raised thousands of dollars, helped organize a fundraiser for survivors of domestic violence, and was coordinating donations of food to be received at shelters across the Valley.

Alyssa's dedication didn't go unnoticed, and she was soon offered a full-time job as Philanthropy Coordinator, a role that allowed her to work closely with generous community members

and those in need, putting her on the front lines of A New Leaf's impactful work. She will now

Alyssa's motivation to serve her community is deeply rooted in her faith. As a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, she was raised with a strong sense of the importance of volunteering and making a positive impact on the lives of others. This lifelong goal of serving led her to a career in nonprofit work, where she could make a lasting difference.

In her interview, Alyssa shared her perspective: "Volunteering and service are powerful ways to bring the spirit of the gospel to our community. Every effort, no matter how big or small, con-

tributes to positive change. We all have the power to make a difference."

Alyssa Turley embodies the spirit of compassion and empathy that we should all aspire to. She is a testament that, with faith as our guide, we can bring about meaningful change in the lives of those who need it most. Her story serves as an inspiration to all, reminding us that, with the right mindset and faith, we can all be a beacon of hope for those in need.

For more information about supporting A New Leaf, please visit turnanewleaf.org



Serve Your Local Community!

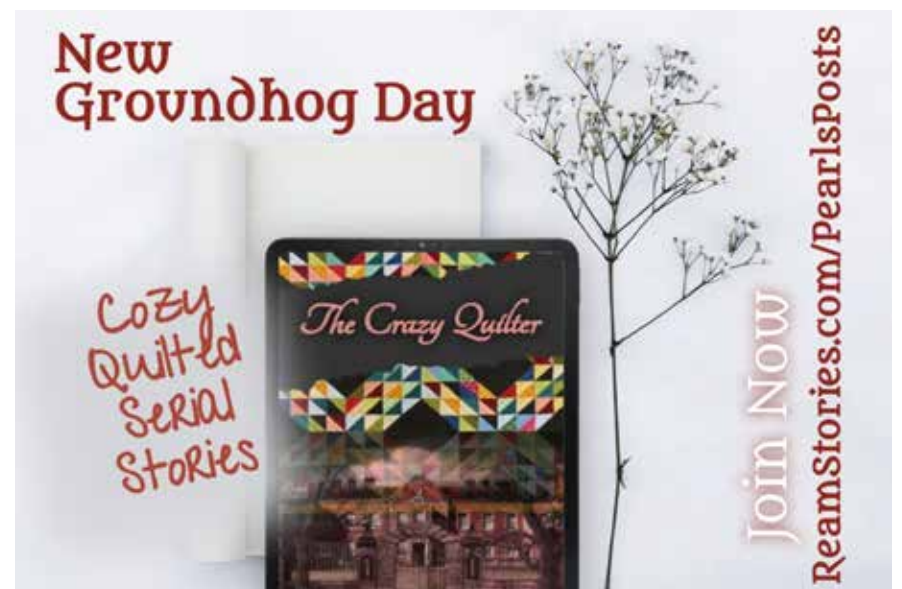
A New Leaf is looking for kind people like you to make an impact in our local AZ community through JustServe

You can find exciting opportunities to serve your local community on A New Leaf's JustServe page today. Find projects such as:

- Preparing meals at a local homeless shelter
- Putting together hygiene kits for homeless families
- Painting murals at local community centers

We believe people like you can truly make the world a better place - one person, one project, one hour at a time. Only by taking action today will our community move towards a better, brighter future! Join us today!

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FamilySearch Homepage

By Glen K Tolman

FamilySearch.org has recently migrated to a new homepage. This update provides a friendlier and more inviting environment especially for those who are not familiar with what FamilySearch provides and have not yet set up an account. Accessing all the FamilySearch capabilities is now much easier.

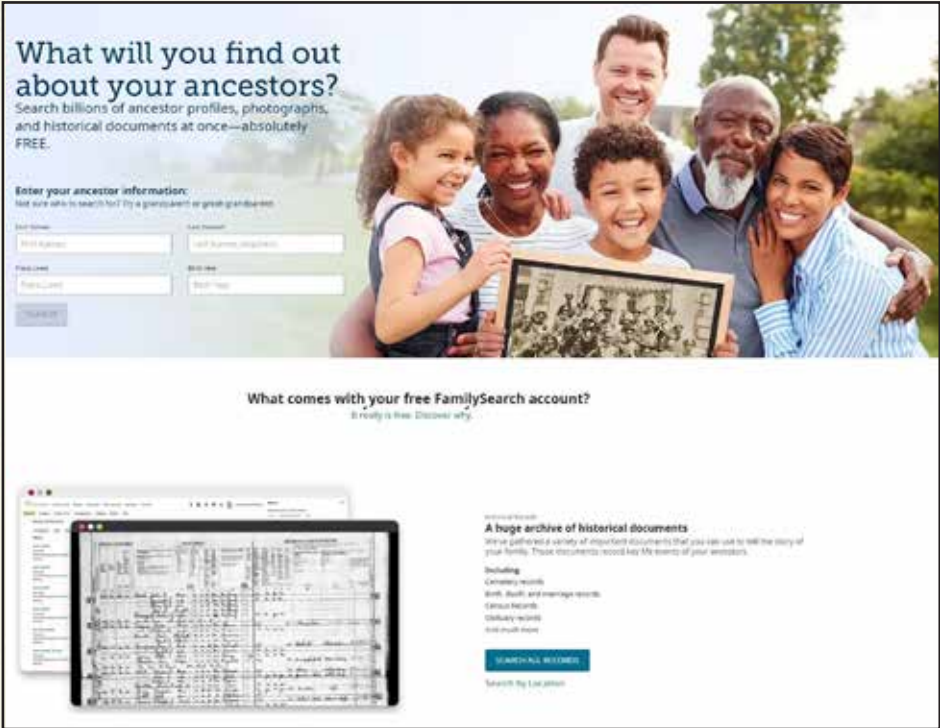
logging in to an account. This option was previously found on the homepage, but few ever saw the option since it required scrolling down from what was first displayed. This option shows first when accessing familysearch.org and is titled “What will you find out about your ancestors?” “Search billions of ancestor profiles, photographs, and

under “About” next to “Details” on an individual’s “Profile” or “Person” display. Other information is displayed as you scroll down the home page, including “What comes with your free FamilySearch account?” Items coming with your free account include: A huge archive of historical documents, access to millions of ancestor profiles and family relationships, online and in-person help with learning, how to get started, descriptions of FamilySearch Apps, and much more.

Not sure where to begin? Scroll down to the section titled “Not sure where to begin” and select “CHOOSE YOUR NEXT STEP”. You can choose from several options including “Build your family tree”, “Find Ancestors in Records”, and “Make Discoveries”. Once you are ready to get the most out of FamilySearch, you will need to create an account.

To create your account, select “Create an Account” from one of several places on the home page. The easiest is at the top. There are several options including using an existing Facebook, Google or Apple account, or your Church account. Or create your unique account on FamilySearch. For members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, use either the Church Account option or create an account

on FamilySearch and then add your membership record number, Once your account is established, you have created a starting point with your own personal profile. See the section under “Getting Started” / “Build your family tree” for help. You will need to add living family members (parents and grandparents) to build a bridge to deceased ancestors who may already have a profile on FamilySearch. Enjoy the numerous features available on FamilySearch and help a friend as well.

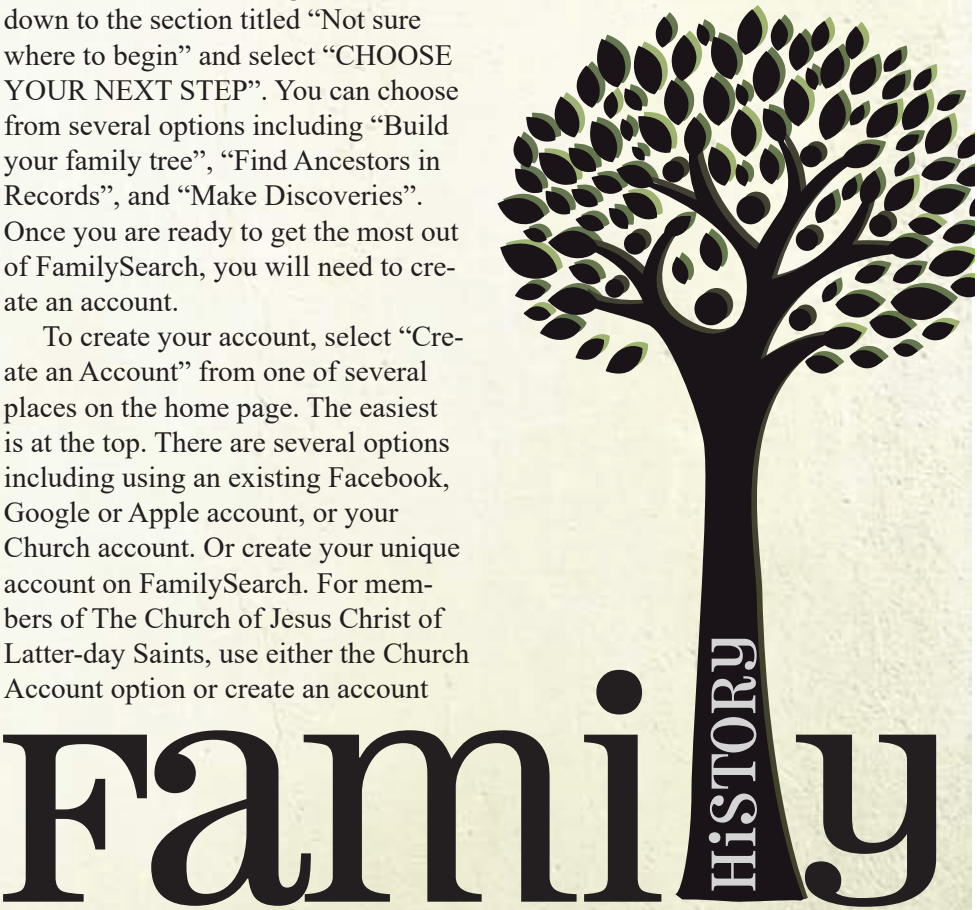


FamilySearch Homepage

Photo Taken from FamilySearch

The updated homepage still makes it easy to sign in once you have an account. Simply select “SIGN IN” at the top of the homepage and access your family information on FamilySearch. What shows first on the homepage is an option to see what FamilySearch may have about an ancestor without

history documents at once—absolutely FREE” When entering a deceased ancestor’s name and optionally birth year or place lived, possible Family Tree profiles will be displayed. When I enter my mother’s maiden name, hers is the first profile displayed. For those familiar with FamilySearch/Family-Tree, what is displayed also shows



Resolute Goal Setting Continued from pg. 10

who planted a majestic five acres of daffodils, one bulb at a time over a span of 40 years, to create a masterpiece of a million flowers. Don’t sell yourself short. Keep your vision centered! “We all possess more power and greater possibilities than we realize, and visualizing is one of the greatest of these powers” (Genevieve Behrend). Show your family consistently through your attitude and example that we believe in the joys of continual striving towards the glorious eternal life promised.

Book Lovers Unite! Continued from pg. 19

fifty volunteers setting out the books and all other items for sale. Book sale browsers can expect to find “Fiction, which often looks new. NY Times bestsellers. A huge selection of vintage and out-of-print selections. Very old classics, i.e. a Bible printed in 1868. Arts, crafts and hobbies. Cookbooks are popular.” Then Ricci adds, “Any titles you might see at Barnes and Noble can be found in the book fair.” Saturday book fair attendees

receive free admission to tour the museum. The fair is outdoors. Some additional details: Book Fair dates: February 3rd and 4th, 2024, opening at 8:00am each day. 50,000 gently used books, DVDs and CDs spanning 20 categories will be available at huge bargain prices. Books start at only \$1. The Mesa Historical Museum is located at 345 N. Horne (the Old Lehi School Building). For information: 480-835-2286, or visit <https://www.mesahistoricalmuseum.com/events>.

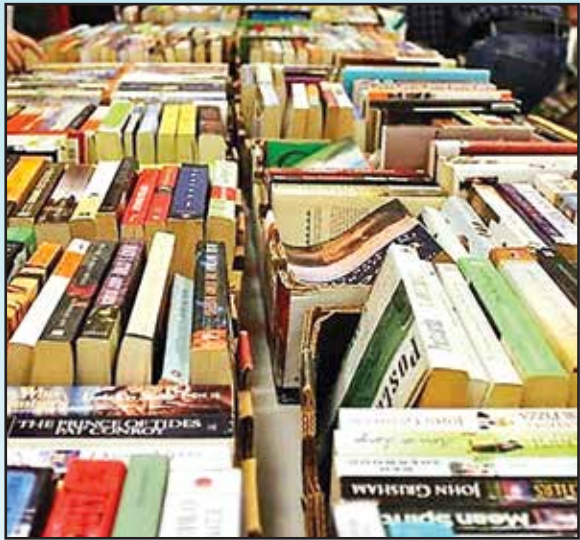


Photo courtesy of the Mesa Historical Museum

Books on display for the Book Fair.



JUSTSERVE

Phoenix Suns Gorilla Delights Hospice Patient

By Lin Sue Flood

It was a slam dunk surprise for a North Scottsdale senior community when the Phoenix Suns Gorilla popped in for a visit. The team mascot wanted to thank a hospice patient for being a devoted fan for over 50 years. He bounded into Clearwater Pinnacle Peak in Scottsdale with arms full of team swag for 88-year-old Lee Kragenbring.

“Lee has been struggling with health challenges of late and we wanted to bring him a little joy,” said Hospice of the Valley social worker Renee Adams. “I genuinely haven’t seen him this happy ever, not to mention the smiles on his family’s faces.

Many high fives were given!”

The visit astounded the season ticket

holder who has attended more games than he can count. Though he no longer speaks, Lee was grinning ear to ear as the Gorilla entertained the crowd of 50 residents with backflips and dance moves. Cheers broke out as he walked across the room on his hands.

The last time Lee went to a game was right after he’d been diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease. “I just wanted to give him one last experience before he couldn’t go anymore,” said Lee’s daughter, Kim Kulpins. “When Renee approached me about making this happen, I thought, ‘No way — not during the basketball season!’ This is so touching and incredible. I’m grateful that the Suns care about my dad.”

“It’s moments like this when it’s hard to tell who receives more joy,” Renee added. “The patient or those of us who love and care for him?”

When Hospice of the Valley reached out to see if a visit might be possible, Phoenix Suns Charity

Manager Josh McCann didn’t monkey around — he made it happen almost immediately. “We appreciate the hospice team letting us know about this gentleman and for having us visit,” he said. “We couldn’t wait!”

After all the “hoop”-la, Lee had a lot more team memorabilia to add to his impressive collection, which features a signed ball from the ’93 season.

But the Gorilla’s true gift was something far more precious — lasting memories of a most special day. Shazam!

Lin Sue Flood is Community Engagement Director at Hospice of the Valley. To learn more, visit hov.org or call (602) 530-6900.

Photo courtesy of Hospice of the Valley

The Phoenix Suns Gorilla busted out the moves to thrill residents at Clearwater Pinnacle Peak in Scottsdale. (Back row left to right: Hospice of the Valley social worker Renee Adams, granddaughter Korey Root, daughter Kim Kulpins. Front row left to right: hospice patient Lee Kragenbring and granddaughter Meagan Blau).



VALLEY TEMPLE SCHEDULES

Additional Information:

- Appointments for proxy ordinances are encouraged. Patrons without appointments are also welcome, but may be asked to wait for an opportunity to participate. To schedule or modify a proxy appointment, visit your temple’s information at <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/temple>
- Patrons are encouraged to bring their own temple clothing.
- Ordinances for family names must be done in proper sequence—baptism, confirmation, Melchizedek Priesthood ordination (males), initiatory, endowment, and then sealing. Please allow sufficient time to perform all the ordinances you wish to complete during your visit. For additional help and information, please call the temple.
- Please contact the temple for more information or if you have special circumstances or needs.
- Temple websites can be found by searching [churchofjesuschrist.org/temple](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/temple)

Gilbert Arizona Temple

3301 S. Greenfield Rd, Gilbert, AZ, 85297

(1) 480-822-5000

Services: Clothing rental available. No Cafeteria

Closures 2024

Monday, 1 April 2024 - Monday, 15 April 2024

Thursday, 4 July 2024

Monday, 30 September 2024 - Monday, 14 October 2024

Mesa Arizona Temple

101 S. LeSueur, Mesa, AZ, 852014

(1) 480-833-1211

Services: Clothing rental available. No Cafeteria

Closures 2024

Monday, 26 February 2024 - Monday, 11 March 2024

Monday, 18 March 2024 - Saturday, 30 March 2024

(Limited Operations)

Saturday, 6 April 2024

Thursday, 4 July 2024

Phoenix Arizona Temple

5220 W. Pinnacle Peak Road, Phoenix, AZ 85310

(1) 623-474-9500

Services: No clothing or cafeteria

Closures 2024

Saturday, 6 April 2024

Monday, 20 May 2024 - Monday, 3 June 2024

Thursday, 4 July 2024

Saturday, 5 October 2024

Distribution Centers

Mesa 445 E Main Street (480) 969-2170

Gilbert 2894 S San Tan Village Pkwy (480) 926-3234

Phoenix 2919 W Agua Fria Fwy (480) 660-6100